

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 27**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: APRIL 22, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: A crack in a levee forced an early morning evacuation of the city of Drayton's 1,080-plus residents on April 22. Law enforcement officials began an evacuation at 3 a.m. and reported that by 6 a.m. all residents had left. They expected the town to be inundated with Red River flood waters by 11 a.m. The Red River at Drayton had risen to 44.82 feet, surpassing its flood-of-record level of 43.8 feet set in 1979. The National Weather Service expects the river at Drayton to crest between 48 and 49 feet by April 23, nearly five feet over original projections.

City of Pembina officials have ordered an evacuation of the city's 640-plus residents by 6 p.m. April 22. The Weather Service expects the river to crest at Pembina at 58 to 59 feet by late April 25. The river level at Pembina had risen to 52.1 feet, an increase of 3.45 feet during the past 24 hours.

As Grand Forks evacuees cope with the possibility of not returning home for two weeks, flood fighters were involved in a massive pumping effort at the U.S. West Building on April 21. The effort is designed to keep critical communications connections and equipment operational. By early April 22, the river had risen to 54.1 feet, nearly six feet above its previous flood-of-record level. Fire fighters and firefighting equipment are maneuvering in more than four feet of flood waters to extinguish an 11-building downtown fire, which has been contained. Two cranes will be used to knock down walls of fire-gutted buildings. Fire fighters also have responded to three home fires. Since evacuations began, law enforcement officials reported two burglaries, one at an audio store and the other at a pawn shop. Officers also handled two forced evacuations, and flood fight workers rescued eight flood-stranded people on April 21.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reports that all but one highway linking North Dakota to eastern states have been closed by flood waters. The state's only access is I-94 at Fargo.



During its first five days of operation, the Agriculture Disaster Response Center received more than 250 calls from farmers and ranchers concerned about disaster-related damages. The center, staffed by the N.D. Department of Agriculture, the N.D. Farm Service Agency and the North Dakota State University Extension Service, has been providing information on such topics as carcass removal and burial, and efforts to obtain federal agricultural assistance.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: As of April 21, the Salvation Army had assisted 193,161 displaced flood victims and disaster services personnel through "Operation We Care." The Salvation Army is providing meals and drinks to more than 19,000 sandbaggers, emergency/security personnel and evacuees. To date, 27,744 volunteers from 14 states are participating with Red River flood relief efforts in both North Dakota and Minnesota.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: President Clinton is scheduled to arrive at Grand Forks Air Force Base April 22 to meet with evacuees. His itinerary also includes an aerial surveillance flight of flood-damaged areas along the Red River. Governor Schafer, Maj. Gen. Keith D. Bjerke, State Coordinating Officer, Mike Armstrong, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) director, and Lesli A. Rucker, Federal Coordinating Officer, are scheduled to meet with the President. Maj. Gen. Bjerke is also scheduled to meet with the U.S. Secretary of the Army.

In an effort to provide potable water in the Grand Forks area, the N.D. National Guard is providing 11 reverse osmosis machines. The U.S. Army Reserve's 348th Quartermaster Unit will arrive in Grand Forks on April 25 to assist with the production of potable water. The unit will furnish three reverse osmosis machines. The National Guard has staged four helicopters in Grand Forks and one in Fargo. Approximately 866 National Guard members were participating in "Operation Good Neighbor" on April 21, with 314 working in Cass County, 260 in Grand Forks, seven in Richland County and the remainder at other areas throughout the state. Grand Forks military operations are being coordinated through a National Guard Task Force Commander. A second Task Force Commander has been assigned to assist with coordinating military assets in response to flood fight efforts north of the city of Grand Forks.

The N.D. Department of Health staff members are working to secure transportation to alternative locations for many frail, elderly senior citizens, who have been evacuated to the Grand Forks Air Force Base. Many of the senior citizens had either been staying at Grand Forks long-term care facilities or had been receiving home health care. The N.D. Human



Services Department and the N.D. Long Term Care Association are assisting with these efforts.

In response to flood victims' needs, the N.D. Department of Health has sent medical supplies to Grand Forks and has mobilized public health nurses and staff from the Microbiology and Food and Lodging Divisions. The Grand Forks Public Health Department, which has been temporarily relocated to the Grand Forks Air Force Base, has received the following supplies for evacuees: 2,000 doses of tetanus vaccine; 2,700 syringes and needles; 4,000-plus alcohol wipes; several gallons of disinfectant, antibacterial and disposal containers for needles; and 1,500 flood cleanup brochures. Ten public health nurses from the state office, Bismarck/Burleigh County and the First District Health Unit in Minot will provide assistance to the Grand Forks staff. The Department of Health also has identified staff for testing of the osmotic-processed water given to evacuees at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The Division of Microbiology supplied rapid testing kits for water supplies and 400 Colilet rapid testing kits for coliform bacteria. The Food and Lodging Division staff has conducted inspections at shelters in Hillsboro, at Mayville State University, the University of North Dakota (UND)--Lake Region, Devils Lake, and Camp Gilbert C. Grafton, also Devils Lake. In addition, the Department of Health has sent tetanus vaccines to the following locations: Lake Region Health Unit, 500 doses; Nelson-Griggs Health Unit, 100 doses; Northwood Hospital, 50 doses; Pembina County Health Department, 600 doses; Cavalier County Health Department, 200 doses; and, Walsh County Health Department, 200 doses. The Department of Health has ordered 9,000 additional doses of tetanus vaccine, and 20,000 additional flood cleanup brochures.

The FEMA/State Donations Coordination Center became operational April 21 and is staffed by the Seventh Day Adventist Disaster Response, United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR) and three flood-displaced volunteers from Grand Forks. Staff at the Donations Coordination Center is working to match offers of living accommodations to appropriate agencies involved with sheltering issues. As of April 20, the center received 146 calls from people with a variety of offers, from living accommodations to volunteering with disaster relief efforts. Hours of operations on April 22 will be from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. The hotline number is (800) 809-1450.

FEMA hazard mitigation personnel will assist North Dakotans with mitigation measures designed to lessen the impact of flooding. The personnel will be assigned to temporary Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) that are being established first in western North Dakota and then, as flood waters subside, in eastern counties. The DRCs will also be staffed by representatives of FEMA, the N.D. Department of Human Services and the U.S. Small Business Administration. The centers will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The locations and dates are as follows: Beulah, April 25-26 and April 30-May 1, Beulah Civic Center; Bismarck, April 23-24 and April 30-May 1, Burleigh County Emergency Management Center; Carson, April 21-22 and April 28-29, Grant County Courthouse; Dickinson, April 23-24 and April 29, Veterans Room, Stark County Courthouse basement; Linton, April 25-26 and May 2-3, Emmons County Courthouse; and Mott, April 21-22 and April 28, Legion Hall in the Hettinger County Courthouse basement.

Although the Grand Forks Job Service office has been closed until further notice, Job



Service North Dakota services are available to flood victims. Flood victims who were receiving unemployment benefits or those who want to apply for benefits are directed to call (800) 472-2222. A toll-free number, (800) 482-0017, has been designated for employers who are looking for workers and job seekers from the Grand Forks area. Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available for those individuals who do not qualify for other unemployment insurance benefits. Individuals who have been employed in Minnesota are encouraged to file claims through the Minnesota Department of Economic Security at (888) GET-JOBS.

Efforts to remove animal carcasses from waterways continue with five teams comprised of National Guard members, and state and federal officials. As of April 21, more than 500 carcasses had been removed. State agriculture officials estimate 90,000 animals perished during the April 4-6 blizzard. The carcass water removal and burial program is coordinated through the Agriculture Disaster Response Center in cooperation with the National Guard, Animal Damage Control, N.D. Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Stockmen's Association, the N.D. State University Extension Service, Farm Service Agency, N.D. Department of Health, and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol (CAP) continued its efforts to support flood fight operations by conducting four flights on April 21. An air crew took Weather Service employees on a flight over the Red River, from Fargo to Pembina. During two separate flights, air crews videotaped flood and storm damages for Grand Forks officials and for the N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. The CAP also transported flashlights and waders from Bismarck to the Grand Forks.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages can apply for individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029. The N.D. Department of Agriculture operates an Agriculture Disaster Response Center for farmers coping with damages and losses caused by the disaster. The toll-free number is (888) 337-8632.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".



Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director